



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 06753.0554

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Takao Murakami et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
Application No.: 10/616,976 ) Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
Filed: July 11, 2003 )  
)  
For: CONNECTOR )  
)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 29, 2003

By: David W. Hill  
David W. Hill  
Reg. No. 28,220

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	6753.0554	Appln. No.	10/616,976
Applicant	Takao Murakami et al.		
Filing Date	July 11, 2003	Group:	Unassigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,839,921	11/24/98	Yamanashi			
	5,733,144	03/31/98	Tsuji et al.			
	5,700,162	12/23/97	Hatagishi et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
EP 1 209 766 A2	05/29/02	Europe			

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce